

Work crews began removing trees infested with the Asian longhorned beetle on Monday, November 29, and continued through the week with the exception of Wednesday, December 1, due to rain and high winds. A total of 105 trees were cut down by week's end.

The first area to be addressed was the Tower Trailer Park in Carteret. Crane booms were used to keep trees from falling onto residences in the park as the trees were cut down. The tree parts were chipped at the site and prepared for future incineration. Tree cutting will resume on Monday, December 6, concentrated mainly in Carteret and the Avenel section of Woodbridge Township.

In this first phase of cutting, 1,000 host trees will be removed, including the 410 identified as infested. Over the next several months, more than 4,000 host trees in total will be removed.

Numerous media outlets covered the first two days of tree removal, all stressing the need for the measure as the only sure way to prevent any further spread of the beetle. Among those covering the cutting were: NBC and CBS TV from New York, NBC-10 and ABC-6 of Philadelphia, News 12 New Jersey, NJN Nightly News, 1010 WINS radio from New York, the *New York Times*, *Star-Ledger*, *Home News Tribune*, and the Associated Press.

Staff from the Otis Pest Survey Detection and Exclusion Lab's Center for Plant Health Science and Technology is collecting infested wood to be used for completing ALB population studies. Personnel from the Illinois and New York infestations are assisting in the effort.

Field surveys continued this week, with 49,734 trees inspected to date. Twenty-four U.S. Forest Service climbers, two New Jersey Department of Agriculture climber and 22 program personnel from USDA APHIS-PPQ, NJDA and New Jersey Division of Forestry are taking part in survey or regulatory activities.

On Sunday, December 5, around 9 a.m., NJDA Division of Plant Industry Director Carl Schultze and USDA's New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Director Barry Emens will be call-in guests on Ralph Snodsmith's syndicated radio program, "Garden Hotline," to update Snodsmith's listeners on the eradication efforts. They appeared on September 26 on that show, generating numerous phone calls from listeners who thought they might have seen signs of the beetle on their properties.

On Tuesday, December 7, the USDA Forestry Service will conduct a one-day ALB Reforestation/Urban Community Forester program meeting in Newark, bringing together state and federal staff working the ALB reforestation efforts in New Jersey and New York. They will meet to share information, provide program updates and identify opportunities to cooperate.